

[19 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme has been launched in the country to tackle chemical contamination, which aims at testing various parameters for all drinking water sources by the grassroot level works in each Panchayat by simple-to-use field test kits with provision for one field test kit each for every Gram Panchayats in the country for this purpose. Further, with effect from 1st April, 2006, it has been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds to mitigate water quality problems on focused manner.

(c)As informed by the Department of Drinking of Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a plan to be implem'ented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. The objective of the said component is to cover 55067 uncovered habitations as well as to address problem of slipped back and quality affected habitations.

Indo-Pak discussion on water resources

2029. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some convergence of views following detailed technical discussions between India and Pakistan at the level of Water Resources Secretaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The last Secretary Level talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation Project, as part of Composite Dialogue, were held from 22nd to 23rd June 2006 at Islambad at, the level of Water Resources Secretaries. The two sides exchanged views on the project and had a better udnerstanding of each other's views. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Water Treaty 1960 and agreed to continue discussions during the next round of Composite Dialogue with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.